

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SSC-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /080 W
-----151746Z 050632 /50

R 151637Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5642
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02831

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: SPD UNHAPPY WITH GENSCHER'S FOREIGN
MINISTRY PERSONNEL MOVES

BEGIN SUMMARY: RECENT PERSONNEL DECISIONS BY FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER HAVE MADE SOME SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC
POLITICIANS SUSPICIOUS THAT GENSCHER IS UNDERTAKING
A CAMPAIGN TO PUSH SPD SYMPATHIZERS OUT OF KEY POSITIONS
IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ARTICLES APPEARING IN
"SPIEGEL" AND THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC WEEKLY "VORWAERTS"
CHARGE GENSCHER WITH "BOOTING OUT" THE SPD. SCHMIDT,
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WHO WAS CONSULTED AND AGREED TO SOME OF THE MOVES, DOES
NOT VIEW THE SITUATION TOO SERIOUSLY, BUT THE ARTICLES
FEED THE SUSPICION AMONG MANY OF THE SPD RANK AND FILE
THAT THE LIBERALS ARE OVERPLAYING THEIR HAND WITHIN THE
COALITION. END SUMMARY.

1. RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL

CHANGES HAVE LED TO SPECULATION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IS MOVING SPD SYMPATHIZERS OUT OF KEY POSITIONS. THE PERSONNEL CHANGES WHICH HAVE CAUSED THE CONTROVERSY WERE:

- STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF'S (REPUTEDLY SPD) TRANSFER TO THE VATICAN;
- GUENTHER VAN WELL'S (REPUTEDLY CDU) PROMOTION TO STATE SECRETARY REPLACING GEHLHOFF;
- RUTH'S (REPUTEDLY CDU) PROMOTION TO REPLACE AMBASSADOR ROTH (REPUTEDLY SPD) AS CHIEF OF THE DISARMAMENT SECTION;
- KLAUS KINKEL'S (REPUTEDLY FDP) TRANSFER FROM GENSCHER'S OFFICE TO CHIEF OF THE PLANNING STAFF; AND
- AMBASSADOR HANS-GEORG WIECK'S (REPUTEDLY CDU) TRANSFER FROM TEHERAN TO MOSCOW.

2. SOME OBSERVERS SEE THE ABOVE PERSONNEL MOVES AS AN ATTEMPT BY GENSCHER (A) TO GET RID OF CLEARLY IDENTIFIED SPD MEN AND (B) TO KEEP HIS LINES OPEN TO THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SHOULD THE FDP WISH, AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE, TO SWITCH COALITION PARTNERS.

3. IN THE CASE OF VAN WELL'S AND WIECK'S APPOINTMENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SCHMIDT HAD BEEN CONSULTED BEFOREHAND AND HAD GIVEN HIS APPROVAL. UNDER THE COALITION ARRANGEMENT, KEY DIPLOMATIC POSTS AS WELL AS STATE SECRETARY POSITIONS REQUIRE AGREEMENT BY BOTH COALITION PARTNERS BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT IS MADE.

4. AN ADVISOR OF SCHMIDT'S TOLD US THAT THE CHANCELLOR WAS NOT WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE TWO APPOINTMENTS. IN THE CASE OF WIECK, WHOM HE RESPECTS, SCHMIDT DID NOT HAVE AN AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PROPOSE. THE SPD FEELS THAT VAN WELL IS MORE AN OPPORTUNIST THAN A FIRM SUPPORTER OF THE CDU. ALTHOUGH SCHMIDT WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE PUBLIC LINE TAKEN BY VAN WELL VIS-A-VIS BERLIN AND THE SOVIETS, HE DID NOT WANT TO RISK A CONFRONTATION WITH GENSCHER OVER THE APPOINTMENT.

5. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT DISSATISFIED FDP (NOT SPD) SYMPATHIZERS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE THE SOURCE

FOR THE TWO ARTICLES WHICH WERE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE IN TONE. NEVERTHELESS, THE EDITOR OF "VORWAERTS" SAW THE LEAK AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAP GENSCHER ON THE KNUCKLES AND AN OCCASION FOR THE SPD WEEKLY TO DEMONSTRATE A

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R 151637Z FEB 77
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02831

DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. HE TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE ARTICLE HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH BRANDT, BAHR OR SCHMIDT BEFOREHAND. WE KNOW THAT SCHMIDT WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR NOT BE RAISED IN THE MEDIA.

6. WHILE MOST OF THE CHANGES HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME MONTHS IN BONN, THEIR PORTRAYAL IN THE PRESS AS A POWER PLAY BY GENSCHER WILL ONLY HELP TO FEED THE DOUBTS

FELT BY MANY SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC RANK AND FILE MEMBERS
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ABOUT THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE LIBERALS AS A
COALITION PARTNER. WHILE THE CONTROVERSY SHOULD NOT
BE OVER-DRAMATIZED, IT DOES REPRESENT ANOTHER SIGN THAT
TENSION AND MISTRUST CONTINUE WITHIN THE COALITION.

7. THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT THE GENSCHER MOVES
ARE DESIGNED TO COUNTER THE CHANCELLOR'S EFFORTS TO
TAKE OVER CONTROL OF INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS. BRINGING
WISCHNEWSKI INTO THE BUNDESKANZLERAMT AND GIVING HIM
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS AS
WELL AS THE NAMING OF SPANGENBERG, THE BUNDESKANZLER-
AMT'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WEST BERLIN, TO THE SECOND
POSITION OF STATE SECRETARY IN THE INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS
MINISTRY, HAVE NOT GONE OVER WELL WITH GENSCHER. WE CAN
EXPECT SUCH PLOYS AND COUNTER-PLOYS IN THE FUTURE. TWO
KEY POSITIONS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REMAIN TO BE
FILLED, THE CHIEF OF THE PERSONNEL SECTION AND THE CHIEF
OF THE CULTURAL SECTION. THESE POSITIONS ARE PRESENTLY
HELD BY SPD SYMPATHIZERS, AND THE POLITICAL COLORATION
OF THEIR SUCCESSORS WILL BE AN INDICATION OF WHETHER
GENSCHER IS PRESSING HIS CAMPAIGN FORWARD OR WHETHER HE
IS SATISFIED WITH THE GAINS ALREADY MADE.
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